

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

www.thekabultimes.com twitter.com/thekabultimes info@thekabultimes.com facebook.com/thekabultimes

Founded in 1962 Dalwa 27-1403 Saturday 15 February 2025 INo: 275-Vol: LXII

Kabul 08° Sunny | Kandahar 17° Partly cloudy | Herat 11° Light rain | Jalalabad 21° Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 13° Rain showers | Bamyan -5° Partly cloudy

"Religious and modern sciences are vital and everyone should learn sincerely," Supreme Leader

KABUL: The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada during his visit to Kandahar University, said Thursday that both religious and modern sciences are important and everyone should learn sincerely.

Referring to the significance of both religious and modern education, the Supreme Leader said: "Learn both fields of knowledge sincerely, with the intention of seeking the pleasure of Allah Almighty, and use your knowledge to benefit both religion and society."

The deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat said in a statement on his X official page that Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada further emphasized that Afghanistan is a shared home for all, and every individual holds a special place within this system.



"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has the best intentions for you.

Both madrasas and schools are essential institutions, and it is our duty to protect and support both," he said, assuring students and teachers of his full support and cooperation in all matters.

The Supreme Leader noted that Afghanistan is progressing under its current governance system and encouraged students to contribute to the country's development through academic excellence.

Furthermore, he emphasized that all policy decisions within the Islamic Emirate are made in consultation with religious scholars and in accordance with Islamic teachings.

The Kabul Times

Statement by the Islamic Emirate regarding the withdrawal of the Soviet Red Army from Afghanistan on 26th of Dalwa



In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

The 26th of Dalwa marks the 36th anniversary of the defeat and withdrawal of the Soviet Red Army from Afghanistan.The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan considers this day a proud and thankful day in the history of Afghanistan and congratulates its Muslim and Mujahid brothers on this occasion.Through their Jihad, struggles, sacrifices, migrations, and the countless hardships faced by Afghans and Muslims in their fight against the Soviet Union, Allah Almighty bestowed upon them the strength and honor to defeat such a powerful adversary, forcing the Soviet forces to retreat from Afghanistan.Afghanistan's liberation from occupation three times in the past century, by Allah's grace, highlights the deep-rooted determination of the Afghan people for independence. It also showcases the steadfast resolve of our Muslim community to protect their faith and safeguard their freedom.The repeated invasions and the triumph of Jihad throughout the past century should stand as a powerful lesson to any future aggressors, reminding them not to challenge our freedom and independence again.The brave and proud people of Afghanistan must remain watchful against any future plots or conspiracies, just as they have in the past. By staying united in their faith and determination, they must uphold the legacy of their ancestors, ensuring the preservation of their religion, values, and independence.

Safeguarding Afghanistan's cultural heritage needs international cooperation, Khairkhwa

KABUL: Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa, the acting Minister of Inormation and Culture, met with Per Albert Ilsaas, the Norwegian Charge d'Affaires to Kabul, on Thursday, saying that safeguarding Afghanistan's cultural heritage is not only a national duty but also a shared responsibility of the international community.

The ministry said in a statement that both sides discussed and exchanged views on cultural issues in addition to Afghanistan-Norway relations.

Describing Afghanistan as a country with an ancient history containing thousands of historical sites, historical monuments, and cultural heritage, Khairkhwa said: "These historical sites, monuments, and cultural heritage are not only related to Afghanistan but are also the cultural heritage of humanity, most of which needs protection and restoration."

The statement quoted the Norwegian diplomat as saying that Norway remains committed to continuing its past assistance and will collaborate with relevant institutions to support cultural heritage preservation efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, home to a wealth of historical sites, has seen significant damage to its cultural landmarks due to decades of war and conflict.

Among the most endangered is the Minaret of Jam in Ghor province, an 800-year-old UNESCO-listed structure, which is currently at risk of collapse, raising serious concerns among preservationists and historians.

The Kabul Times



Water canal constructed in Kapisa province, FAO



KABUL: The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced the other day that it has constructed a water canal in the capital Kabul.

The 9-kilometre canal has been constructed with the support of the World Bank and in collaboration with local partners in the Istalif district of Kabul province, FAO said.

The organization added that through this canal, around 97 hectares of cropland will be irrigated, and three thousand families will benefit from the water.

The Kabul Times

Beradar holds talks on bilateral economic cooperation with Qatari Premier in Doha

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, during his visit to Qatar, discussed bilateral economic cooperation with that country's Premier Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, his office said in a statement Thursday.

The two sides also talked about strengthening bilateral relations in various fields, and investment opportunities facilitated by both the government and the private sector, the statement said, adding that challenges faced by the Afghan people and strategies to provide assistance have also been discussed in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman affirmed the unwavering cooperation of his government for the Afghan people and underscored the Qatari nation's ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring the security, stability, and prosperity of the Afghans.

Afghanistan, under the Islamic system, has been stepping toward strength, prosperity, and pride as the Islamic Emirate's relations widen with the world and regional countries both economically and politically.

Undeniably, the Islamic Emirate has achieved eye-catching progress in various sectors, especially in strengthening diplomatic relations with the world countries since its power takeover more than three years ago.

The Kabul Times



Commission discusses special exams, other topics

KABUL: The meeting of the Administrative Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was held, with the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, on the Chair, to discuss the specialization of Konkor examination, Arg said in a statement Friday.

According to the statement, the appointed committees presented a report regarding their activities to the commission.

The issues related to the Ministries of Public Health, Finance, Telecommunications and Information Technology, and the National Environmental Protection Agency have been in the meeting, the statement said.Previously, issues related to the maintenance of Makrorians, the Ministry of Education, Kabul Municipality, the Emirati Companies, and the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports were evaluated in the meeting of the Administrative Commission. **The Kabul Times**



IEA working to expand diplomatic relations with world, Mujahid

Kabul: The spokesman of the Islamic Emirate Zabihullah Mujahid said the other day that the current system has been making efforts to expand its relations with world countries.Following reports about a proposed list of diplomats from the Islamic Emirate to India, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate Zabihullah Mujahid has stated that the presence of diplomats from both countries in New Delhi and Kabul is a necessity, and discussions on the matter are ongoing.Speaking to TOLOnews, Mujahid said: "Efforts are being made to ensure India's diplomatic presence in Afghanistan and Afghanistan's diplomatic presence in India. Now, the conditions have become favorable for both countries to have diplomatic representation, and the Islamic Emirate is considering this and engaging in dialogue."Previously, on November 13, 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate confirmed the appointment of Ikramuddin Kamil as the acting consul general of Afghanistan in Mumbai, India. **The Kabul Times**



Four martyred, 10 injured in Maidan Wardak road accident

MAIDAN SHAR: At least four commuters have been martyred and 10 others injured in a traffic accident in Maidan Wardak province, the provincial police office said in a statement the other day.

The incident took place on a road in the province's Dasht-e-Top area along the highway linking the capital Kabul to southern Kandahar province when two passenger vehicles collided, leaving four dead, including a woman, on the spot and 10 others injured, the report the statement said.

The injured have been taken to the provincial hospital for treatment, some of them are in critical condition, the statement added.

Road accidents happen due to drivers' recklessness on congested roads, and the lack of traffic signs on dilapidated highways is a leading cause of death in the country.

The Kabul Times



International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash Shiabani, Ali and Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Enemy's momentum should be restrained

The enemies of peace and security of Afghanistan once again spread fear and dread in some parts of the country, including the capital Kabul.

Scores of innocent people, mostly civilians, have been martyred and many wounded when a man wearing an an explosives vest blew himself among a crowd gathered near the New Kabul Bank agency in Kun,duz, the provincial capital city of Kunduz.

The wounded were rushed to the provincial hospital, where some were reported in critical condition.

Here in the capital Kabul, a suicide blast left a few numbers dead and wounded.

Unaware of the main Islamic principles and teachings, they take lives, destroy government facilities, and target schools and health centers.

Under the holy Islamic teachings, killing and injuring or even harming a creature is unlawful and a violation of Islamic instructions.

The defense and security forces of the country should do their best to ensure the security of the people and the country.

They should locate any militants everywhere in the country and do their best to arrest them and bring them to justice. They should prevent any distractive activities in coordination with the people and foil any enemy plots and safeguard and defend the country's national unity and territorial integrity.

The country's citizens should also cooperate closer with the country's security, defense, and intelligence personnel to identify any criminals and arrest and take them to the law.

The neighboring countries also have the responsibility of tightening their border security and preventing the influence of foreign insurgents into each other territories. Also, a strong joint security team should be established among the neighboring countries, particularly with Afghanistan, to prevent the illegal travel of suspicious individuals.

Mujahid: Today's youth the future of Afghanistan

Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), in an interview with Shariat Daily, has said that with the implementation of major and national projects in the country, no youth of the country will remain unemployed.

According to Mujahid, the Islamic Emirate has taken major steps and made great progress in the past over three years.

He asked the country's youth to appreciate all the IEA's achievements and come to work together to build capacity and create job opportunities in the country.

"The country's youth should not be keen on other countries, as unemployment is also high and increasing in Arab and Western countries.

Let's build our capacity as major projects are completed, no Afghan will remain unemployed.

The country's young should work on themselves and build their capacity in a specialized way," Mujahid said.

According to the IEA spokesperson, today's youth are the future of Afghanistan; therefore, they should study computer science, technology, and other fields.

He said the Youth Affairs Deputy Ministry of the Information and Culture Ministry, Education, and other relevant institutions were working for the youth, adding that there would be no economic problems in the future as they would move towards development and took steps in the economic sector and would not be under anyone's influence.

During the interview, Zabihullah Mujahid, by pointing to the past over three years' achievements, said that the Islamic Emirate has had great achievements in the past three years.

"The Islamic Emirate has taken great steps in the past over three years.

Firstly, Afghanistan has been freed from a foreign invasion, and the U.S.-led NATO troops have been defeated, which has been a great achievement for not only Afghanistan but the whole world.

Secondly, the Islamic Emirate has endured unprecedented security across the country, and third achievement has been the formation of Islamic government in the country," Mujahid said.



In his interview, Mujahid by pointing to the implementation of major and national projects said that the Islamic Emirate launched major and national development projects by starting construction work on projects as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, Qush Tepa Canal, Wakhan Corridor, reconstruction of Salang highway, Kabul–Kandahar, Helmand-Herat, Kandahar-Uruzgan, Herat-Badghis, and Ghor-Herat roads.

According to the IEA spokesperson, as part of the IEA achievements, around 1,500 small and big factories have started operation over the past three years; besides, some 800 other manufacturing factories will start operation in the near future, and the number will reach 2,500–3,000.

This is considered a great change in the country's industry sector.

Pointing to economic programs, Mujahid said that trade relations have been maintained between Afghanistan and countries in the region and world, adding that trade and transactions with neighboring countries have increased in the past three years.

He named some projects planned for future trade between regional countries as the Afghan-Trans Railway, connecting Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan, and the Iran-Afghanistan railway project.

During his interview, Mujahid, by answering a question about the Wakhan Corridor project, said that the Wakhan Corridor was a big and principal project, connecting directly Afghanistan to China.

"China currently has a trade volume of about $6 trillion with Western countries.

Trade between China and Europe is carried out through sea.

If China does half or $4 trillion of trade through Wakhan, if we take two percent of this as transit, it will generate an annual income of about $6 billion, which is several times the size of our budget.

There were some concerns with China about Wakhan, but they were minor.

We addressed those concerns and will take further steps towards completion of the project," Mujahid stressed.

Pointing to U.S. aid suspension, the Islamic Emirate spokesperson said that the country's economy was not dependent on U.S. aid.

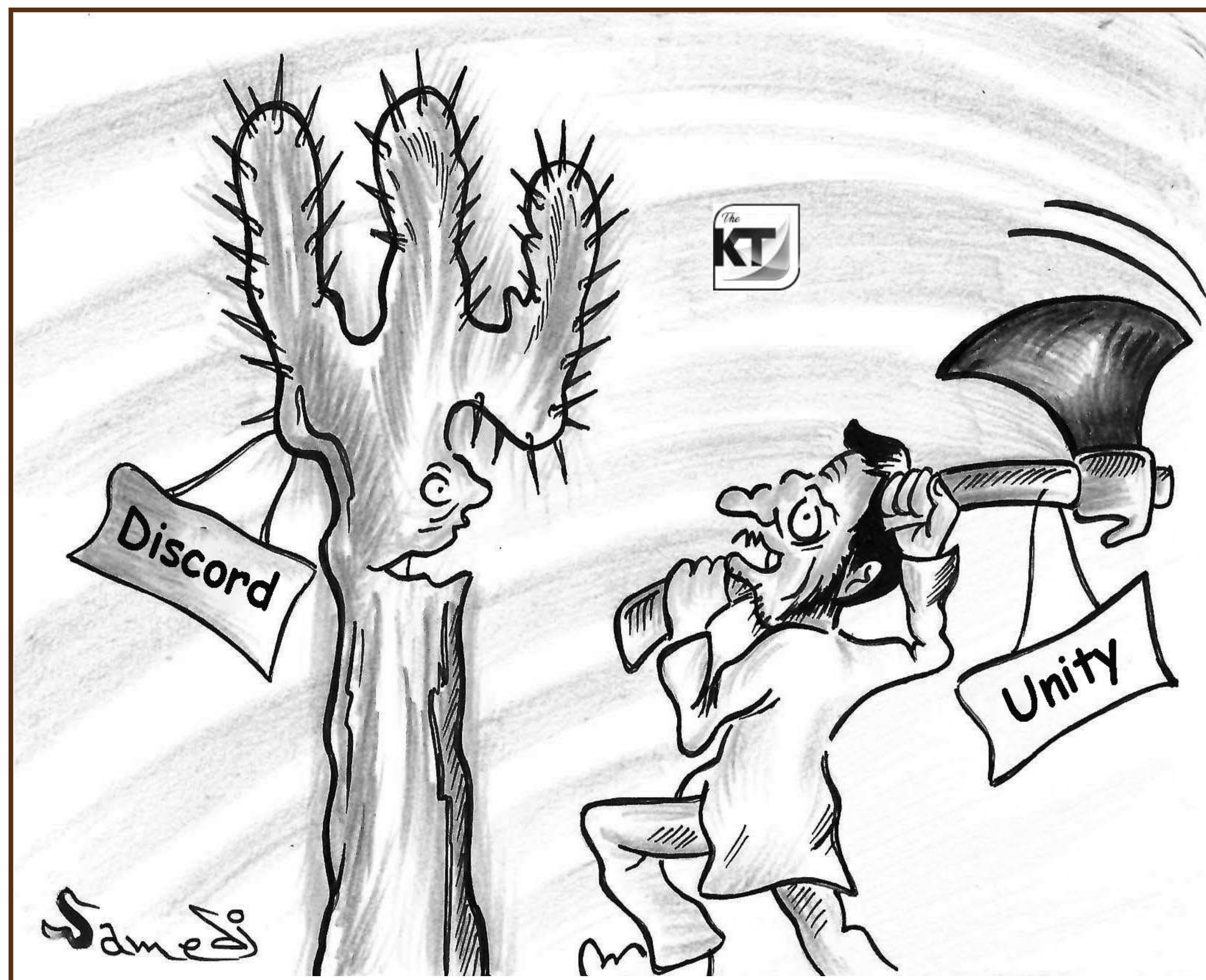
"Afghanistan's basic economy is not dependent on the U.S. and its aid to our country.

U.S. aid has been provided through donor organizations, and such aid has been also provided by UN members, Western countries, and others.

This aid cannot rebuild the Afghan economy, nor is it used in development and other budgets," Mujahid said.

He added that Western countries have not done any fundamental work for Afghans, and their aid has been just short-term for miserable Afghans, stressing that Afghanistan's economy did not depend on foreign aid; therefore, the suspension of U.S. aid would not affect the country's economy. He further said that the Afghani was stable, and it had fallen slightly against the dollar due to political influence and some mafia circles. He assured that the Afghan currency would remain stable, and no one should worry about it.

Mukhtar Safi



Afghanistan; the graveyard of empires: Lessons from the former Soviet Union

However, the Afghan fighters, driven by their strong belief in their faith and their nation's sovereignty, stood against this overwhelming force with sheer determination and limited weaponry.

The withdrawal of the Soviet Army from Afghanistan on February 15, 1989 (26 Dalwa 1367 in the Afghan calendar) marked one of the most significant victories in the history of Afghanistan.

This momentous event is remembered as a testament to the unwavering faith, courage, and resilience of the Afghan people, who, despite having limited resources, managed to defeat one of the world's most powerful military forces.

For nearly a decade, Afghanistan was the battleground of a fierce struggle between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Union, which had deployed a highly sophisticated and well-equipped army.

The Soviet forces, supported by an extensive war machine, including tanks, fighter jets, and modern weaponry, aimed to establish control over Afghanistan.

However, the Afghan fighters, driven by their strong belief in their faith and their nation's sovereignty, stood against this overwhelming force with sheer determination and limited weaponry.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan began in December 1979 with the goal of bolstering a communist government that faced growing resistance from the Afghan people.

However, the war turned into a costly and protracted conflict that drained Soviet resources and morale.

Despite their military superiority, the Soviet forces were unable to suppress the relentless resistance of the Afghan mujahidin.

The unity and determination of the Afghan people ultimately led to the Soviet withdrawal, a major geopolitical defeat for the Soviet Union and a blow to communist ideology.

The victory over the Soviet Army was not the first time Afghanistan had defied and defeated foreign invaders.



Throughout history, the Afghan people have demonstrated remarkable resilience against imperialist forces.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Afghanistan successfully resisted British invasions, reinforcing its reputation as the "Graveyard of Empires."

Decades after the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan once again witnessed a prolonged war with the United States and NATO forces, which, despite their military and technological superiority, ultimately had to withdraw in 2021 due to the steadfast resistance of the Afghan people.The Soviet defeat in Afghanistan had far-reaching consequences beyond the battlefield. It played a pivotal role in accelerating the decline of the Soviet Union, which collapsed just two years later in 1991.

The war also served as a reminder to the world that no foreign power could successfully impose its will on Afghanistan. The struggle and sacrifice of the Afghan people in their quest for independence reaffirmed their national identity and their unwavering commitment to sovereignty.

This victory was not just a military success but also a moral and ideological triumph. The resilience and sacrifices of the Afghan people sent a clear message: faith, unity, and perseverance can overcome even the most formidable adversaries. Afghanistan's history is rich with examples of its people standing against oppression, and the defeat of the Soviet Union remains a shining chapter in this legacy.

While the withdrawal of the Soviet Army was a historic milestone, it also serves as a reminder that the struggle for freedom and sovereignty is an ongoing journey.

The Afghan people must remain vigilant in preserving their hard-earned independence and protecting their cultural and religious values.

The spirit of resistance and the pursuit of justice should continue to inspire future generations to stand against oppression and foreign intervention.The lessons from this historic victory should not be forgotten.

Afghanistan's legacy as a stronghold of resistance and independence must be upheld, ensuring that the sacrifices made by past generations continue to inspire courage and resilience.

The people of Afghanistan must remain united in safeguarding their nation's sovereignty and dignity, ensuring that their history of defying superpowers remains an enduring testament to their indomitable spirit.

Fida Mohammed

Kamal Khan Dam: Strategic significance and long-term impact

By: Hashmat Nasiri

The Kamal Khan Dam, constructed on the Helmand River in Chahar Burjak District, Nimroz Province, is recognized as one of Afghanistan's most significant infrastructure projects.

Designed to enhance the agricultural and energy sectors and mitigate the adverse effects of water scarcity, the dam plays a pivotal role in advancing national self-sufficiency, economic growth, and regional stability.

Named after the historical figure Kamal Khan, this strategic project yields substantial benefits not only for Afghanistan but also for neighboring regions.

Strategically located 95 kilometers east of Zaranj, the provincial capital of Nimroz, the Kamal Khan Dam serves as a crucial water management and distribution system for both Nimroz and Helmand provinces while also influencing water availability in Iran's Sistan region.

Although initially conceptualized and designed in the 1970s, its implementation was significantly delayed due to political instability, internal conflicts, and governance transitions.

Afghanistan has long prioritized sustainable development, particularly in water resource management, to bolster agricultural and industrial productivity.

Given its strategic importance, the Kamal Khan Dam was reinstated as a national priority project and its development resumed with renewed commitment.

The dam, engineered to facilitate agricultural expansion and industrial progress, is capable of irrigating approximately 174,000 hectares of farmland, thereby significantly enhancing agricultural output in the region. Constructed under the supervision of the Ministry of Water and Energy, the dam has a storage capacity of 52 million cubic meters of water. Considering that a substantial portion of Afghanistan's economy is dependent on agriculture, this project is instrumental in driving economic and agrarian growth.Beyond its immediate agricultural benefits, the Kamal Khan Dam enhances water security, promotes agricultural diversification, ensures food security, reduces unemployment, and alleviates poverty, thereby improving overall living standards.Furthermore, the dam possesses a 6-megawatt hydroelectric power generation capacity, significantly reducing reliance on diesel-powered generators and fossil fuels. Uninterrupted electricity supply is expected to stimulate industrial activities, foster business expansion, and attract foreign investment.



In addition, the availability of stable and affordable energy will play a vital role in enhancing public services, improving healthcare and sanitation, mitigating environmental risks, advancing education, and facilitating technological integration.

Historically, the Helmand River has been prone to seasonal flooding, inflicting substantial damage on local communities, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure. The Kamal Khan Dam is poised to play an essential role in flood management, ensuring sustainable irrigation, mitigating drought impacts, and preventing environmental degradation.

Strategic Significance of the Kamal Khan Dam

Beyond its economic and social implications, the Kamal Khan Dam holds substantial strategic value.

See P4

U.S. should choose the path of engagement with Afghanistan

In international politics, the choice between engagement and confrontation is made based on long-term strategies and in-depth analysis.

The new U.S. administration's contradictory statements on Afghanistan raise the question of whether Washington will go for a policy of engagement with Kabul or continue with the policy of exerting pressure and imposing sanctions as in the past.

The experience of the past twenty years and the situation after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan shows that the policy of force, sanctions, and isolation has not only had the desired results but has also exacerbated the problems.

A major cause of Afghanistan's current economic crisis is the U.S.'s frozen of Afghan assets. These assets, worth billions of dollars, are the right of the Afghan people, not any political system.

The frozen of these assets has a direct impact on the economic problems of ordinary Afghans.

According to international humanitarian law, a nation's national or foreign assets should not be frozen due to political differences.

In addition, restrictions on Afghanistan's banking system not only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis, but also hinder the activities of international humanitarian organizations.

The economic crisis in Afghanistan is also linked to the current humanitarian crisis in the country, as the lives of millions of Afghans are at risk due to continued sanctions and economic pressures from the U.S. and other countries.

See P4



THE KABUL TIMES
DAILY
Dalwa 27-1403 Saturday 15 February 2025 INo: 275-Vol: LXII

USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.40	91.59	845	253	76.40	01.33	19.98



Afghanistan prepares for 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup



Under the leadership of head coach Meysam Ashtiani, Afghanistan's national beach soccer team has commenced its training in Kabul in preparation for the 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup. The tournament, hosted by Thailand, is set to kick off on March 20, 2025.Afghanistan has been placed in Group C, where they will face strong opponents, including Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia.

These teams have considerable experience in beach soccer, making the competition tough for the Afghan squad.

The team's preparation includes intensive training sessions focused on physical fitness, tactical drills, and strategic gameplay. Coach Ashtiani has emphasized the importance of discipline, teamwork, and adaptability, as the team looks to make a strong impression on the continental stage.

Participation in the 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup presents a significant opportunity for Afghanistan to showcase its talent on an international platform.

The national team has shown progress in recent years, and this tournament will test their ability to compete at a higher level.

The Afghan Football Federation (AFF) has expressed its full support for the team, urging fans to rally behind the players as they embark on this challenging journey.

With dedication and strong preparation, Afghanistan hopes to make a mark in the tournament and compete with some of Asia's top beach soccer teams.

The 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup will feature some of the continent's best teams, and Afghanistan will be aiming to put up a strong fight as they seek to advance past the group stage.

The Kabul Times

Third round of Buzkashi tournament kicks off in Mazar-e-Sharif

The third round of the Mazar-e-Sharif Buzkashi tournament officially began in the capital of Balkh province.

Organized by the National Buzkashi Federation in collaboration with the General Directorate of the National Olympic Committee, Physical Education, and Sports of Afghanistan, the event is financially supported by the Kamal Nabi Zada Charity Foundation.

A total of thirteen teams from various provinces across the country are competing in this ten-day tournament.

The participating teams include Yama Petrol, Jawanan Sar-e-Pul, Um-ul-Bilad, Dara-e-Suf, Balkh, Samangan, Faryab, Baghlan, Kunduz, Jawanan Mawarai Kokcha Takhar, Badakhshan, Jawanan Balkh, and Jowzjan, representing eleven provinces. These teams will compete for the championship title. The opening ceremony was attended by key officials, including Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq, the General Director of the National Olympic Committee, Qari Hayatullah Rahmani, Sports Advisor, Mawlawi Fazl Rahman Bari, Head of the Office of the Directorate, Ghulam Sarwar Jalal, President of the National Buzkashi, Spear-Throwing, and Traditional Sports Federation, along with Balkh's provincial sports officials and Buzkashi enthusiasts. In his speech, Mawlawi Ahmadullah Wasiq expressed his delight at the tournament's launch and emphasized the importance of sports in youth development.

He highlighted Afghanistan's recent achievements,



stating that the country secured over 110 international medals in the past year through continuous efforts and government support.

Wasiq reaffirmed the National Olympic Committee's commitment to supporting athletes and all sports disciplines to ensure their participation in international competitions.

The Kabul Times

Al Nassr secures thrilling victory over Al Ahli in Saudi Pro League

In an intense and highly competitive match, Al Nassr triumphed over Al Ahli with a 3-2 victory in the second game of the 20th round of the Saudi Pro League.

The match, featuring football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams fought hard for dominance on the field.

Al Nassr's attacking prowess was evident as Yahya netted one goal, while Jhon Durán made a significant impact by scoring twice.

Their combined efforts ensured a crucial win for Al Nassr, despite a strong challenge from Al Ahli.



This victory has boosted Al Nassr's standing in the league, allowing them to climb to third place with a total of 44 points.

The team's performance in this match reflects their determination to stay in contention for the top positions in the league.

Al Ahli, on the other hand, put up a commendable fight, demonstrating their attacking strength and resilience.

However, they fell just short of securing a win against a well-coordinated Al Nassr side.

The Saudi Pro League continues to deliver exciting and competitive football, with each match shaping the race for the title.

With this win, Al Nassr remains a strong contender as the season progresses.

Fans eagerly anticipate their upcoming fixtures to see if they can maintain their momentum and challenge for the top spot.

The Kabul Times

Corruption eliminated in Afghanistan, TI's report baseless, says Fitrat

KABUL: The deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, said the other day that administrative corruption has significantly been eliminated in Afghanistan and the recent report of Transparency International is incorrect and baseless. Responding to Transparency International's report, Fitrat stated: "Firm steps have been taken to eliminate corruption in Afghanistan and that the organization's report is incorrect."

While there may be some issues at lower levels, at a broader level, the government has been cleansed of corruption, he said, adding that such organizations use unreliable sources when preparing their reports.

According to the report, Afghanistan scored 17 out of 100 on the organization's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in 2024, which is three points lower than its 2023 score, as well as the country had previously scored 20 in 2023 and 24 in 2022.

In this index, a score of 100 indicates the absence of corruption in the public sector, while a score of zero represents widespread corruption. The report places Denmark (90 points), Finland (88 points), and Singapore (84 points) at the top of the ranking, while South Sudan (8 points), Somalia (9 points), and Venezuela (10 points) are at the bottom.

It is to be noted that the Corruption Perceptions Index is not based on public opinion. Instead, it is compiled using surveys and data from 13 different external sources, including assessments from experts and business executives. However, Transparency International itself is not directly involved in the process.

The Kabul Times



Kamal Khan Dam: Strategic significance...

From P3

It empowers Afghanistan to achieve greater autonomy in water resource management, thereby reducing reliance on neighboring countries for water supply.

Moreover, by boosting domestic energy production, the dam contributes to reducing Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity.

Economic and Long-Term Impacts

1. Agricultural Growth and Food Security: Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Afghanistan's economy, with a majority of the population dependent on farming for livelihood and sustenance.

By ensuring a consistent and reliable irrigation system, the Kamal Khan Dam will significantly enhance agricultural yields, strengthen food security, and reduce reliance on food imports.

2. Industrial Development and Employment Generation: The availability of sustainable water resources is vital to industrialization and private sector expansion. One of Afghanistan's persistent challenges has been access to affordable and stable electricity—a challenge that the Kamal Khan Dam aims to address.

This project is expected to stimulate private-sector investment, facilitate business growth, and create substantial employment opportunities.

3. Exports and Regional Trade: Afghanistan's strategic geographic location positions it as a potential hub for regional trade and commerce.

Increased agricultural and industrial output, facilitated by the Kamal Khan Dam, will enhance Afghanistan's export capacity and foster stronger commercial ties with regional partners such as Iran and Pakistan.

4. Environmental Sustainability: The Kamal Khan Dam plays a critical role in flood mitigation, preventing seasonal disasters and minimizing their economic and ecological impact. Furthermore, the project contributes to groundwater replenishment, ecosystem preservation, and the sustainable utilization of natural resources.

5.Foreign Investment: The completion of large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Kamal Khan Dam necessitates substantial financial investment and international collaboration.

Given Afghanistan's economic landscape, securing foreign investment and financial assistance from global institutions and partner nations is critical for accelerating the execution of pending infrastructure projects.

With the Islamic Emirate's return to governance, infrastructure development and the implementation of national priority projects have been elevated to the forefront of government policy.

The completion of the Kamal Khan Dam remains a key objective of the current administration, reflecting its commitment to sustainable water management, regional cooperation, and long-term economic resilience.

The Kamal Khan Dam is a strategic asset within Afghanistan's national development agenda, directly contributing to self-sufficiency in food and energy production.

The successful implementation of this project not only demonstrates governmental capacity in executing large-scale infrastructure initiatives but also serves as a catalyst for attracting further investment and international assistance in Afghanistan's broader developmental framework.

Conclusion

The Kamal Khan Dam stands as a pillar of Afghanistan's economic growth and regional stability strategy.

Its far-reaching impacts on agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control underscore its importance in ensuring long-term prosperity.

The Islamic Emirate has played a fundamental role in overseeing the successful implementation of this project, ensuring that it meets its intended economic and developmental objectives.Effective management of this infrastructure project will enhance regional development and stability, laying the groundwork for a prosperous and self-sufficient Afghanistan while fostering greater international cooperation and investment opportunities.

U.S. should choose the path of engagement...

From P3

The shortage of food, medicine, and other necessities of life has caused ordinary Afghans, especially women and children, to fall victim to hunger, poverty, and disease.

Afghanistan is a key country in the region's geographical and strategic location.

If the United States wants to maintain its influence in the stability and security of the region, then interaction with Afghanistan is essential.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has shown its readiness to build relations with all countries of the world, including the United States.

Kabul insists that it wants to interact with international countries based on mutual respect. The United States should not miss this opportunity and regulate relations with the Afghanistan government through official diplomacy.

Not recognizing of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the issue of the blacklist of some leaders of the Islamic Emirate show a policy of confrontation instead of interaction, which results in continued instability and a threat to regional security.

The current global situation, especially the war in Ukraine, the competition between China and the United States, and the changes in the Middle East, require the United States to adopt a new approach to Afghan policy.

Treating Afghanistan as a legitimate government, releasing the country's foreign assets, and seeking solutions to the blacklist issues can have positive consequences for both countries and the region.

Ultimately, Washington should learn from the experience of past failed policies and adopt a new, rational, and mutually understanding policy toward Afghanistan.

The policies of sanctions, exerting pressure, and isolation must end and be replaced by a path of diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect.

If the United States opens the door to engagement with Afghanistan, it will have positive consequences for both countries and the entire region.

Sayed Sharif